Official Training

Roman Catholic Lay Leaders/ Catholic Representatives:

In an Ideal church and world, there would be enough Roman Catholic Priests to care for the needs of all.

The reality is:

"The harvest is great but the laborers are few"

Matt 9:37

. . . and so, there IS a shortage of priests in the United States, AND **a shortage in the Sea Services :**
USN / USMC / USCG / USMA

The Department of the Navy has historically Recognized the need for and the critical role of Lay Leaders, and so it institutionalized the Lay Leader Program in these Instructions:

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READ THIS!!

The Commanding Officer may appoint a lay leader to support the personnel resources necessary to meet identified religious rights and needs . . .* [this] *helps the command to meet the requirement to provide for the free exercise of religion by all personnel of the command. The appointment responds to an identified need and conveys no ecclesiastical status to the service person appointed.

Therefore, the position of Lay Leader is an OFFICIAL APPOINTMENT by a Commanding Officer.

Lay Leaders/ Roman Catholic Representatives

Must also be APPOINTED by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for the Military Services

As Roman Catholics, We all come from a Diocese or Archdiocese. There are hundreds of Dioceses in the United States such as New York, Raleigh, Chicago, New Orleans, Sioux Falls, Fargo, Corpus Christi, Los Angeles, Seattle and so on.

The Archdiocese for the Military Services was established: ***to care for the special spiritual needs of military servicemembers and their families, Veteran Administration Hospitals, and Americans serving their Country overseas (Embassy***

From the *Military* viewpoint, who may be selected as Lay Leaders?

Military Service Persons of good standing who are seen as leaders in the Command.

From the Church's viewpoint, who may be selected to be Lay Leaders?

Pope Paul VI gave this direction

“ [Lay Leaders] must be persons whose good qualities of Christian life, faith and morals recommend them. Let them strive to be worthy of this great office, fostering their own devotion to the Eucharist [and their Catholic faith] and show an example to the rest of the faithful by their own devotional reverence. . .”

(Pope Paul VI Immensae Caritatis

In Civilian Parishes, certain non-ordained men and women are selected to assist with the distribution of the eucharist. These Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EME) assist the priest both in Church (at Mass) and in visiting the sick to distribute the Eucharist.

You have NOT been selected to become EME's. You ARE selected to be Lay Leaders. Lay Leaders are EME's but with a big plus.

Lay leaders take possession of the Eucharist and hold short services, for those without access to a Catholic Priest / Catholic Chaplain.

Ordinarily, The Roman Catholic Mass is the official worship of the Roman Catholic Community. Only Roman Catholic Priests may officiate (or lead) a Catholic Mass, and only Priests may confect or "make" the Eucharist.

As Lay Leaders, YOU will provide a Catholic service to your Roman Catholic shipmates – but you will not celebrate Mass or confect the Eucharist. Only Priests can celebrate Mass and confect the Eucharist.

As Lay Leaders you may, however, lead a short service in the absence of a Priest. It is your responsibility, however, to get a Priest to your command to celebrate Mass whenever possible.

Priests can re-supply you with the Eucharist, celebrate Mass for your people, hear their confessions, and provide real spiritual care and training for them.

You cannot and will not under any

As Catholic Lay Leaders: You must be familiar with your Catholic faith but are not expected to be an expert or a theologian. You should, however be a student of your faith. And while you are expected to be ambassadors for Christ and His Church (as are all Catholics), you are not

You are expected to hold a Service when a Priest can not visit your military command to celebrate Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation.

What type of Service are you expected to conduct??

A) You will open with a prayer – The Opening Prayer for that particular Sunday/Holy Day.

B) You will read, or have another read, the readings for that particular Sunday/Holy Day.

C) You will lead the Group in the Prayers of the Faithful followed by the Lord’s prayer: “The Our Father”.

D) You will distribute the Eucharist that has been supplied to you by a Priest.

E) You will ask all to sit for a moment of silence to pray and reflect on their reception of the Eucharist.

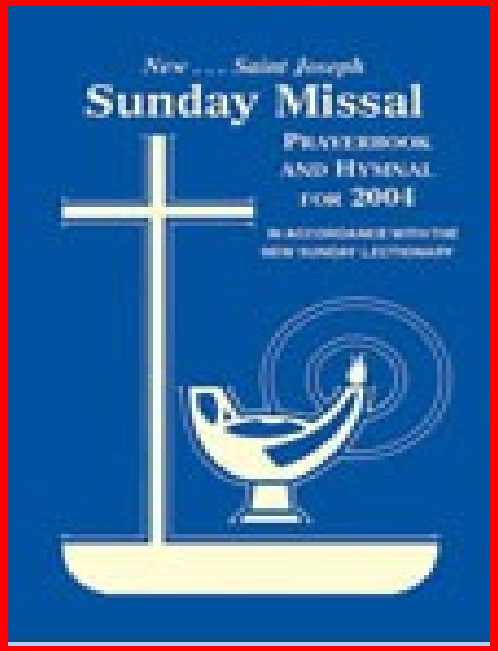
F) You will offer a final Prayer – which is the Final Prayer for the Mass on that particular Sunday/Holy Day.

Again, here are the primary parts of your Lay Leader Catholic Service:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Selected Scripture reading for that Sunday/Holy Day
3. The Prayers of the Faithful and The Our Father
4. Distribute the Eucharist supplied to you by a Priest
5. Sit for a moment of silent reflection

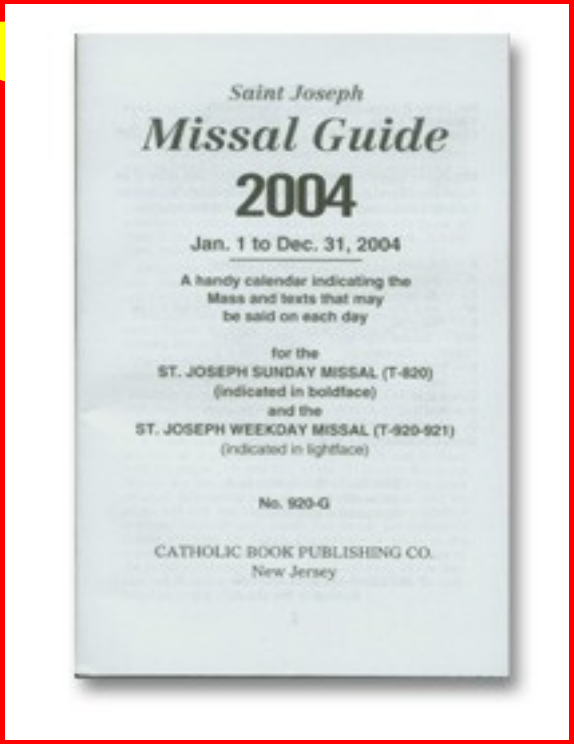
Where do you find the prayers and Sunday Readings?

- **Answer: In the Sunday Missal that you will receive from your Priest-trainer.**



How do you know what Sunday Readings / Prayers to use?

- **Answer: In the Sunday Missal Guide that you will receive from your Priest**



The Eucharist is the Body of Christ. As a Catholic Lay Leader and Catholic Representative you will be given possession of the Eucharist. Where do you keep the Eucharist and who should have access to the Body of Christ?

Question: Where do you keep the Eucharist and who should have access to the Body of Christ?

Answer: ONLY you or a Catholic Priest have access to the Eucharist, and NOBODY ELSE!

Question: Where do you keep the Eucharist?

IN A PYX IN A RESPECTFUL AND SECURE LOCATION